

Bombay Harbour. A list of records ending with one at the Vihar Lake in 1929 is published in *J.B.N.H.S.*, Vol. xxxiii, p. 973. This reads in part 'On March 2, 1858 the crew of the steamer *Aden* killed a large tiger which was swimming across to Mazagaon from the opposite shore.' The *Bombay Courier* also records the sudden appearance of a tiger at Mazagaon 'the animal apparently swam across the harbour and landed near the ruined Mazagaon fort'. This is roughly seven miles from the nearest point on the mainland.—EDS.]

2.—AN EXTENSION OF THE KNOWN RANGE OF *BANDICOTA NEMORIVAGA* (HODGSON) IN CHINA

The only record of the Smaller Bandicoot Rat, *Bandicota nemorivaga* in China appears to be from Tengyueh, in extreme south western Yunnan (vide The Natural History of Central Asia, Vol. XI, The Mammals of China and Mongolia, Part 2).

I record here a very interesting extension to the known distribution of this species in China, namely, from the Colony of Hong Kong. During the months of April to July, 1946, about one dozen specimens were trapped in the fields at Un Long in the New Territories, Hong Kong. A single specimen was also trapped at Taipo in the New Territories. After my departure from Hong Kong in July, 1946, I received the skull of a specimen obtained by the Rodent Control Inspector from the Aberdeen district of Hong Kong Island itself. The identification of this skull has now been confirmed by Sir John Ellerman at the British Museum (Natural History) in London.

Since it is unlikely that the distribution of this species has been extended via the medium of shipping routes, these records of its occurrence in China from two such widely separated localities cause me to doubt very much that it does not occur over a much wider range in southern China.

I publish this record by kind permission of the Hon. Director of Medical Services, Hong Kong.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
HONG KONG,
23rd September, 1947.

J. D. ROMER, F.Z.S.,
Rodent Control Officer.

3.—ALTITUDINAL LIMIT OF THE INDIAN ELEPHANT

While crossing the Bompou La (9,600') in early September I was surprised to find fresh traces of a number of elephants on the very summit, and to learn that one had actually been encountered on the path a few days before. The Bompou La is in the Se-La Subagency

of the North-East Frontier of India lying some 30 miles east of the eastern boundary of Bhutan. The range whose highest peaks are over 10,000' rises straight from the plains and the southern base is covered in evergreen forest. Above 9,000' this becomes a dense growth of Ringal Bamboo under a cover of Rhododendrons and other evergreens and it is apparently this bamboo which attracts the elephants during the summer months only, since from December to February the Pass is regularly under snow.

I should be very interested to learn the record altitude at which the Indian elephant has been found.

N. LAKIMPUR,
ASSAM.
23rd October 1947.

F. N. BETTS,
Political Officer,
Subansiri Area.

[Prater in *The Book of Indian Animals* (p. 186) says, 'In Burma they wander at all seasons of the year into bamboo forests at a height of 10,000 ft., while in Sikkim their tracks have been seen in the snow 12,000 ft. above sea-level.'—EDS.]

4. THE MOVEMENTS OF THE ROSY PASTOR IN INDIA

With reference to the paper by Mr. Humayun Abdulali published in Vol. 46, No. 4 of the Journal, I am writing in the possibility of being able to fill a small gap in the records collected from Rajputana.

The area covered by my observations was the line of the B. B. and C. I. Railway from Abu Road to Ajmer and the period was 1929-1933.

Normally large flocks of immature birds would be observed about the middle of July, but in 1933 when there was unusually early rain, the first flocks were noted at the end of June. I was not able to observe any particular directional trend in the movement of these flocks and their wheelings seemed to be quite aimless.

The birds were present throughout the cold weather, but in smaller numbers (apparently) than during July-September.

In March flocks of birds in mature plumage were busy feeding and sunning themselves in *Butea frondosa*, wild caper and a shrubby tree locally known as 'pilu' (*Salvadora persica*) of which the fruit-bunches of small purplish black berries—were then ripening. During this period their cheerful murmuration was to be heard almost everywhere that these trees and shrubs were to be found.

By the end of April they had all gone.

1 B, IMPERIAL MANSIONS,
CUFFE PARADE, COLABA, BOMBAY, 5.
7th November, 1947.

R. M. SIMMONS